

February 8, 2010

Dear Members of the Robert J. Collier Trophy Nominating Committee:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of the Project Liberty MC-12W Program by the 186th Air Refueling Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard for the prestigious Collier Trophy.

The 186th Air Refueling Wing has truly earned this award by devoting time and energy to developing a customized training program for one of the fastest delivered weapon systems from conception to combat since World War II.

Customized planes for the MC-12W Project Liberty first supported extended flying operations to the 186th Air Refueling Wing's home in Meridian, Miss. More than 150 volunteers from the 186th quickly went to work designing, developing and implementing a highly technical training program to support this system. In a matter of months, the 186th became a direct support Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance training unit. They have flown more than 1,000 training missions, qualified more than 30 crews and provided invaluable testing data.

The men and women of the 186th have clearly shown a dedication to improving the performance, efficiency and safety of military air vehicles. Their efforts to protect our nation and uphold our liberties each day make me and my fellow Mississippians proud. The efforts of the 186th efforts are highly deserving of the Collier Trophy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour